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IDEA-0088-61

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3 OCT 1961

File - Ideas

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Emergency Collection Operations

REFERENCE: TS-181298-A

1. The inclusion of the U-2 and the P2V-7 as assets capable of collecting intelligence information for warning purposes is highly doubtful and probably should be excluded from any list of assets which may be counted on for warning purposes.

2. The reason for this conclusion is as follows:

a. Collection for the purposes of warning is based upon a time span of minutes or hours; whereas the readout of photography from the U-2 or the P2V-7 could not be accomplished with that speed. By using theater processing, it is possible to get flash reports from U-2 collection within [] hours after touchdown depending on a number of factors.

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b. If the time span of [] after touchdown could be tolerated in the case of the U-2, then the use of the U-2 for warning purposes would rest upon the likelihood of its freedom of use when required. Due to the survivability question, as well as political risk factors, it would almost certainly be impossible to depend upon the U-2 for warning purposes.

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3. It should be noted that in a deteriorating situation, it might be considered that the U-2 would be expendable, the risks worth taking, and that the background information on the changing situation (but not early warning), even if  after touchdown, would be important to have available.

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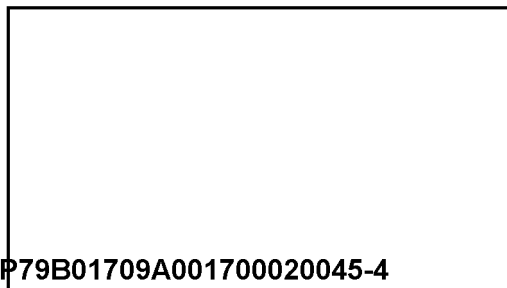
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for STANLEY W. BEERLI
Colonel USAF
Acting Chief, DPD-DDP

C/SRS/DPD/DDP:JQR:ber:sac (3 October 1961)

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